Copy

The Annual Report of the Spalding Rural Sanitary District for the Months of April to December 1902.

To the Spalding Rural District Council.

Gentlemen

In handing in my Report for the year 1902 (April 1st to Dec. 31st) I have to regret the delay which has been caused by the difficulty of obtaining and re-arranging the statistics for the different districts, so that they apply to the whole district.
I have drawn them up for the whole year.
I find it impossible to obtain the Vital Statistics for the Pinchbeck district for the years 1892, 1893, & 1894. I have therefore drawn up the Pinchbeck returns without them and have taken the averages for the <u>Whole District</u> for the years 1895 to 1901, that is for the last <u>seven</u> years instead of <u>ten</u>

In the Whole District 156 Deaths occurred, the rate being 12·46 per thousand, this return shows a very healthy year.
These deaths were distributed in the different districts as follows: Pinchbeck 32. Gosberton 35, Donington 32. Moulton 46 & Deeping S. Nicholas 12.
Of these deaths only one was caused by infectious disease & that was a case of diphtheria at Moulton.
66 of these deaths were of persons above 65 yrs. of age & 32 of infants under one year old.
The number of Births in the Whole District was 342, twelve above the average & an increase of 186 over the number of Deaths

The births in the different districts were as follows: Pinchbeck 96. Gosberton 66 Donington 51 Moulton 104. & Deeping S. Nicholas 25. Pinchbeck, Gosberton and Moulton being well above their averages in this respect.

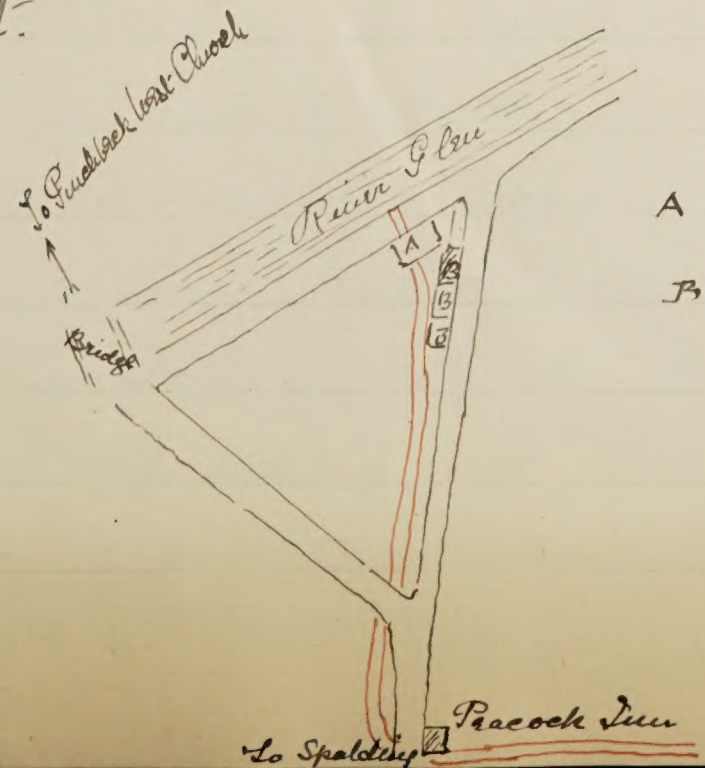
There have been certified only 32 cases of Infectious Disease 25 less than last year.
Of these only one was fatal.
In all cases proper sanitary precautions were taken and no epidemic occurred.
Four cases of Diphtheria were reported simultaneously in a row of houses near the Church at Surfleet and I feared at the time that an epidemic was threatened. I directed that all the children in the row should stay away from school, and, as far as possible the patients were isolated. There was no other case in the neighbourhood.
No case of Small Pox has occurred in the District with the exception of a tramp who was found sleeping in a field at Pinchbeck & was taken to the Union Workhouse (outside the District) by the police constable who found him.
While at the Workhouse he was certified to be suffering from Small Pox. I could not find that he had been staying at any house in the district If this case had been taken to a Medical man in the district there would have been absolutely no place for him to be sent to.
To meet any sudden emergency like this, especially of vagrants suffering from Small Pox, a small portable hospital of two wards has been built. It is made of wood and constructed in sections, so that it may be easily moved. This is now on the

premises of the Union Workhouse and is available for any part of the district at a few hours notice.

With the assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors I have systematically inspected the district.

There are cases of overcrowding everywhere but especially at Donington. These cases are very difficult to deal with as the only alternative, at present, is, in most cases, to drive the occupants out of the district. There is greal need for better house accomodation for the labouring classes.

For <u>drinking water</u> the only safe method in the District is that of storing the rain water, the hard water well always being polluted near cottages, because of the porous nature of the soil.
In many cases I have had to request owners of cottages to build cesterns, and no plans for new cottages are now passed without good and sufficient means for storing the rain water. With separate cesterns in good preservation a serious outbreak of Typhoid is highly improbable.
The system of obtaining drinking water from the drains in the locality is essentially bad and I would draw your attention to a striking example at Fuchbeck West.



A Boat Inn

B Cottages

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The Drain drawn in red ink runs through a sluice from the R. Glen opposite the Boat Inn. After passing under that house it runs in a tunnel at the back of cottages occupied by Broughton & others. The privies to these cottages are in bad repair and are badly kept, the roof of the tunnel is also in bad repair and when I first inspected them the Drain was receiving contamination from the privies. (I have requested that these privies be done away with and earth closets supplied.

Just below these cottages I found a pigstye draining into the same Drain & where it crosses the Spalding Road, the Landlord of the "Peacock" Inn has erected a corrugated iron urinal which drains directly into it. The commencement of the Drain was very foul and a fair supply of ducks & geese kept the mud well stirred.

For years certain persons have had to look to this Drain for their only water supply and I think you will agree with me that it was time soft water cisterns were built for them. This has been done.

There is no systematic water supply in any part of the district.

In passing I would note that no new cottages are being built without good cisterns and also, (which I hold most important) without a suitable area of land attached.

As there is no systematic method of dealing with refuse, every cottage should have sufficient land to accommodate ashbins and cesspits.

(In several cases I have had to find fault with the filthy state in which ducks & chickens are kept; in one case especially, at Pinchbeck West was a disgrace to the keeper and an offence to the neighbourhood)

During the Summer the Double Dyke at Gosberton was most offensive and notice thereof has been sent to the Court of Sewers.
The Slaughter Houses in the District have been inspected and are in a clean and sanitary condition and I have no fault to find with them.
The Milk Sellers keep their premises clean & sweet but I understand they are not all registered, this is being done.
The workshops in the District consist almost entirely of carpentering works, these are always well ventilated, and lighted with large windows. There is no overcrowding in them and as none are more than two stories high, escape in case of fire would be easy.
The only Factory in the District is a feather factory at Gosberton. It is well lighted and (as far as the peculiar nature of the trade will allow) well ventilated. Only three persons are employed there at present. The Sanitary arrangements on the premises are excellent.

I am
Gentlemen
Your obedient servant

Robert Terry
M.O.H. Spalding R.D.C.